

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 /052 W  
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R 021021Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3369

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 0753

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, ML

SUBJECT: SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS

1. AT DINNER PARTY HOSTED BY HONORARY LEBANESE CONSUL IN BAMAKO FEBRUARY 26, SOVIET CHARGE BARAKHNINE ASKED DCM HIS IMPRESSIONS OF 25TH PARTY CONGRESS. DCM REPLIED THAT MAIN THEMES APPEARED TO BE REAFFIRMATION OF DETENTE AND INCREASED MILITARY SPENDING.

2. BARAKHNINE SPOKE OF IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE AND DCM AGREED, BUT ADDED THAT U.S. POLICY OF DETENTE WAS INCREASINGLY QUESTIONED BY INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS BECAUSE OF SOVIET ACTIONS IN PORTUGAL AND ANGOLA. CONVERSATION EXPANDED ON THIS THEME AND BECAME POINTED. CONVERSATION ENDED WHEN OTHERS PRESENT CHANGED THE SUBJECT, BUT NOT BEFORE BARAKHNINE HAD SAID THAT U.S. HAD LOST BADLY IN ANGOLA. HE ADDED THAT USSR HAD NOT YET LOST IN PORTUGAL.

3. ON FEBRUARY 27, AT YOUNG DIPLOMATS (ALL THOSE ON DIP LIST EXCEPT AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES) DINNER HOSTED AT SOVIET EMBASSY, TWO SOVIET EMBOFFS, MIKHAIL SMYSLOV AND VLADIMIR JEREBSOV, TOOK TURNS QUESTIONING DCM ABOUT U.S. REACTION TO BREZHNEV'S  
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STATEMENT AT 25TH CONGRESS. DCM AGAIN REPEATED, AS HIS

PERSONAL VIEW, DEEPENING U.S. SUSPICION OF SOVIET  
POLICIES. NEITHER RUSSIAN HAD LEEWAY TO RESPOND TO  
QUESTIONS, AS BARAKHNINE NEVER FAILS TO DO, BUT  
JEREBSOV SEEMED SURPRISED ABOUT U.S. SUSPICION AND  
ASKED INGENUOUSLY IF DCM WAS SPEAKING OFFICIALLY. DCM  
SAID NO, AND WISHED HIM LUCK IN TRYING TO ANALYZE AMERICANS.

4. COMMENTS: SOVIETS HERE CLEARLY HAD REPORTING REQUIRE-  
MENT TO GET U.S. VIEWS ON THEIR PARTY CONGRESS. OUR  
KNOWLEDGE AT THAT TIME WAS BASED (WE DID NOT TELL THEM  
THIS) ON TASS AND NOVOSTNY. IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE  
HELPFUL TO GET DEPT. GUIDANCE ON PARTY CONGRESS SINCE  
SOVIETS HERE ARE APPARENTLY UNDER INSTRUCTION TO TALK  
ABOUT IT.  
MCGUIRE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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